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## DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

### CHAIR'S REPORT

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**TO:** DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS, STAFF AND PARENTS  
**FROM:** LINDA DODSON TRCHALA  
**SUBJECT:** JANUARY 2016 REPORT  
**DATE:** JANUARY 7, 2016

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Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas with friends and family.

Our committee begins this year with preparing for our Pro Grant Webinars, funded by the Ministry of Education. The focus will be on Literacy and Numeracy. We will have various sessions within the months of February, March or April. There will be more details available shortly as they become finalized. Details will be available shortly on our site at, [www.dcpic.ca](http://www.dcpic.ca).

One of our mandates of this committee is to communicate with and support local Catholic school councils in the Durham Catholic District School Board. I would like to encourage our committee members to connect with each of our affiliated schools. Personally, I have connected with both of my affiliated schools by attending both school council's meetings during the school year. By attending the school council meeting I am not a member of; I was able to become familiar with the school, and they were able to become familiar with me. At that meeting, I came away with valuable information on environment programs for schools that was presented by Carol Stott, DCDSB employee. I encourage our committee members to put a face to DCPIC!

Lastly, I wanted to share part of what His Holiness, Pope Francis shared in his message For the Celebrations of The XLIX World Day of Peace, January 1, 2016:

“I think first of families, which are called to a primary and vital mission of education. Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on. They are also the privileged milieu for transmitting the faith, beginning with those first simple gestures of devotion which mothers teach their children.

Teachers, who have the challenging task of training children and youth in schools or other settings, should be conscious that their responsibility extends also to the moral, spiritual and social aspects of life. The values of freedom, mutual respect and solidarity can be handed on from a tender age. Speaking to educators, Pope Benedict XVI noted that: Every educational setting can be a place of openness to the transcendent and to others; a place of dialogue, cohesiveness and attentive listening, where young people feel appreciated for their personal abilities and inner riches, and can learn to

esteem their brothers and sisters. May young people be taught to savour the joy which comes from the daily exercise of charity and compassion towards others and from taking an active part in the building of a more humane and fraternal society.”

### January Report

- DCPIC Membership
  - a) Two available positions have opened up for parent members due to resignation and movement to Executive Office.
  - b) Advertisements were placed to ensure that we fill these two positions. All parents with children currently attending our schools are eligible and are welcome to apply. For more information, please contact the office of Superintendent Camozzi.
- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
  - a) OAPCE's next quarterly meeting will be January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
  - b) Each school council is asked to have an OAPCE representative as per legislation.
  - c) The 2016 OAPCE Conference will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. It will be in Toronto. Mass celebrated by Cardinal Collins.
- PRO Grant 2015-2016
  - a) We have received approval for \$15k for our initiative on webinars this year. Planned for March and April 2016. Focus on Literacy and Numeracy.
- Conferences/Professional Development
  - a) October 22-24 – When Faith Meets Pedagogy (attended by Kim, Amanda & Richard)
  - b) October 24 – CPF Ontario (attended by Linda & Christina D.)
  - c) November 5 – Cardinal's Dinner (attended by Linda and Roxanne)
  - d) November 7, 8 – People for Education (Nov 8 PIC Chairs/networkers – attended by Linda & Roxanne)
  - e) April 2016 – Ministry of Education PIC Symposium
  - f) May 6-7 - OAPCE